needs. These include development of a river basin management plan, maintenance of minimum ecological flows, augmentation of sewerage infrastructure, catchment area treatment, etc. This initiative is aimed towards rejuvenating the collective efforts of the Centre and the States for cleaning the river. The Central Government has also initiated measures such as concurrent evaluation of schemes to improve implementation of National River Conservation Plan.

Field trials of GM crops

*234.SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether open field trials of BT rice were conducted in Jharkhand, while the central regulatory body stipulates restricted trial, under controlled surroundings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures Government has taken or proposes to take a check open field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) crops by MNCs, in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Company, Mumbai had conducted confined experiment field trials during Rabi-2007 to generate biosafety and agronomic data at 11 locations, *viz.* Anand in Gujarat, Bhandara and Rajgad in Maharashtra, South 24 Parganas and Midnapur in West Bengal, Gaya in Bihar, Ranchi in Jharkhand, Davangere and Mandya in Karnataka and Tanjore and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu in accordance with the biosafety norms stipulated by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC).

(c) The Biosafety measures stipulated by the GEAC to prevent possible contamination due to gene flow during experimental field trials with GM crops by public and private institutions are subject to stringent norms such as; (i) maintaining a crop specific isolation distance as well as biological and physical barriers as per the 'Minimum Indian Seed Certification Standards' recommended by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research; (ii) submission of a validated event specific protocol to detect the level of contamination at 0.01% LOD before initiating the field trials as per the. Hon'ble Supreme Court direction dated 8.5.2007; (iii) designating a lead scientist responsible for the field trials; (iv) monitoring of field trials by a monitoring committee; and (v) post harvest restrictions.

Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management Authority

*235.SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management Authority (CAMPA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CAMPA has some issues with the Himachal Pradesh Government over outstandings, due to which it has not yet started releasing funds to the State Government for implementation of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme due to which Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) plans under implementation have been withheld;